

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-23 canceled.

24. (currently amended) ~~The housing of claim 23,~~ A housing for use in an anesthesia scavenging apparatus, said apparatus comprising a vacuum source for withdrawing anesthetic gas exhaled by a patient from the ambient atmosphere, said housing comprising a tube having a length dimension, said tube being detachably attachable to said vacuum source, said tube having an outlet for attachment to said vacuum source, and a plurality of inlet openings or vents disposed along the outer surface of said length dimension, for the reception and ingress of said anesthetic gas to be withdrawn from said ambient atmosphere wherein said length dimension is extended and defines an arcuate shape, and said housing further comprises fasteners located at said closed ends of the tube for attaching the closed ends together to secure said tube about a patient's neck.

25. (currently amended) ~~The housing of claim 23,~~ A housing for use in an anesthesia scavenging apparatus, said apparatus comprising a vacuum source for withdrawing anesthetic gas exhaled by a patient from the ambient atmosphere, said housing comprising a tube having a length dimension, said tube being detachably attachable to said vacuum source, said tube having an outlet for attachment to said vacuum source, and a plurality of inlet openings or vents disposed along the outer surface of said length dimension, for the reception and ingress of said anesthetic gas to be withdrawn from said ambient atmosphere wherein the length dimension of said tube is linear in appearance and comprises two closed ends, with said outlet positioned centrally between said closed ends, so that a T-shaped appearance is generally defined, the housing further comprising a band strap interconnectable with said closed ends for supporting the tube about a patient's neck.

26. (currently amended) The housing of claim 24, further comprising a ~~band~~ strap interconnectable with said fasteners for supporting the tube about a patient's neck.

27. (currently amended) The housing of claim ~~23~~ 25 wherein the tube is rigid.

28. (currently amended) ~~The housing of claim 22~~ A housing for use in an anesthesia scavenging apparatus, said apparatus comprising a vacuum source for withdrawing anesthetic gas exhaled by a patient from the ambient atmosphere, said housing comprising a tube having a length dimension, said tube being detachably attachable to said vacuum source, said tube having an outlet for attachment to said vacuum source, and a plurality of inlet openings or vents disposed along the outer surface of said length dimension, for the reception and ingress of said anesthetic gas to be withdrawn from said ambient atmosphere wherein the length dimension of said tube is circular or O-shaped and possesses an outer circumference, and said outlet is positioned at one point on said circumference.

29. (currently amended) ~~The housing of claim 28 wherein An anesthesia scavenging system, comprising; a collar with at least one vent, the collar comprising said housing in accordance with claim 22, and the tube is sized to be positioned about a patient's neck; and a vacuum source in fluid communication with the collar.~~

30. (canceled)

31. (canceled)

32. (currently amended) ~~The system of claim 30~~ An anesthesia scavenging system, said system including a vacuum source for withdrawing anesthetic gas exhaled by a patient from the ambient atmosphere, said system comprising a tube having a length dimension, said tube having an outlet detachably attachable to said vacuum source, and a

plurality of inlet openings or vents disposed along the outer surface of said length dimension for the reception and ingress of said anesthetic gas to be withdrawn from said ambient atmosphere, the tube being ~~said housing in accordance with claim 22,~~ sized to be positioned about a patient's neck wherein the tube has closed ends and is secured about a patient's neck by releasably interconnectable tabs.

33. (currently amended) The system of claim ~~30~~ 32 wherein the tube has closed ends and is retained about a patient's neck by a strap.

34. (currently amended) The system of claim ~~29~~ 32 wherein a vacuum line connecting the ~~collar~~ tube with the vacuum source is interconnected with a nasal mask vacuum line.

35. (currently amended) ~~The system of claim 34~~ An anesthesia scavenging system, said system including a vacuum source for withdrawing anesthetic gas exhaled by a patient from the ambient atmosphere, said system comprising a tube having a length dimension, said tube having an outlet detachably attachable to said vacuum source, and a plurality of inlet openings or vents disposed along the outer surface of said length dimension for the reception and ingress of said anesthetic gas to be withdrawn from said ambient atmosphere, the tube being sized to be positioned about a patient's neck wherein a vacuum line connecting the tube with the vacuum source is interconnected with a nasal mask vacuum line, the system further comprising a tee which connects the vacuum line from the ~~collar~~ tube to the nasal mask vacuum line, and connects both vacuum lines to a vacuum source.

36. (canceled)

37. (canceled)

38. (currently amended) ~~The method of claim 36,~~ A method of removing anesthetic gas exhaled by a patient being nasally administered an anesthetic gas comprising: placing a housing comprising a tube having closed ends and a length dimension and a plurality of inlet openings or vents disposed along the outer surface of said length dimension, in proximity to the mouth of a patient; connecting the perforated housing to a vacuum source; and applying a vacuum to the housing to remove exhaled anesthetic gas from proximity to the mouth of the patient wherein the housing comprises a tube with closed ends and the step of placing the housing in proximity to the mouth of a patient comprises positioning the tube about a patient's neck and interconnecting the ends.

Claims 39-41. (canceled)